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Agenda item 49

University for Peace

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "University for Peace" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item and held a general debate on it at its 8th meeting, on 17 October (see A/C.4/67/SR.8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/272).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 17 October, the Rector of the University for Peace made a statement (see A/C.4/67/SR.8).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/67/L.6

5. At the 8th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Luxembourg, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "University for Peace" (A/C.4/67/L.6). Subsequently, Algeria, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Monaco Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Togo and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.[1]

[1] The delegation of Lithuania subsequently indicated that it had intended to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

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6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution did not have programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/67/L.6 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/83 of 10 December 2009, in which it indicated that, in its resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for higher education, research and the dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training and education for peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system, as well as all preceding resolutions on this item,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Noting with appreciation the vigorous actions taken by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with the encouragement and support of the Government of Costa Rica, to revitalize the University,

Recognizing the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period from 2010 to 2012 with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in particular the progress made in the further development and implementation of the academic programme and in expanding its coverage in various regions of the world,

Noting with appreciation that the University has started a number of innovative new master's degree programmes in areas related to peace studies, security and the environment, in addition to regular courses in Spanish and study-abroad programmes, and that it has announced the launching of a two-track doctoral programme in peace and conflict studies,

Noting that the University places special emphasis on the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the peaceful settlement of disputes and that it has launched programmes in the areas of democratic consensus-building and training of academic experts in the techniques of peaceful settlement of conflicts,

Noting with satisfaction the donation to the University of a substantial additional property in Costa Rica, which will serve as an alternative campus, with housing facilities for visiting professors, a large covered auditorium space and additional classroom areas,

Noting with appreciation the support provided to the University by the host country, Costa Rica,

Considering the importance of promoting education for peace that fosters respect for the values inherent in peace and universal coexistence among people, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, as well as friendship and solidarity among people irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, religion or culture, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/83, outlining the extraordinary progress made by the University in introducing and implementing innovative programmes on critical subjects related to peace and security;[1]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the important work of the University and its potential role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through education, training and research in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to consider ways to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations system and the University;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to expand the scope for using the services of the University as part of his conflict-resolution and peacebuilding efforts through the training of staff, especially those concerned with peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to strengthen their capacities in this area, and in the promotion of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;[2]

4. *Invites* the University to further strengthen and broaden the outreach of its programmes and activities for cooperation with and capacity-building for Member States in the areas of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

5. *Invites* Member States that have not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace,[3] thereby demonstrating their support for an educational institution established pursuant to a General Assembly resolution and devoted to the promotion of a universal culture of peace and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Encourages* Member States, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, interested individuals and philanthropists to contribute to the programmes and core budget of the University to enable it to continue to perform its valuable work worldwide;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "University for Peace", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at that session a report on the work of the University.

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[1] A/67/272.

[2] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1223, No. 19735.